

Helpful hints for Individual Riders

PLEASE REMEMBER – The goal is to have fun and be safe while riding with friends and have less worries. Most experienced riders will already follow many of these “hints”.

1. Always be a courteous rider to fellow riders and vehicles.
2. Fill out an “ICE” card for you and your co-rider. (In Case of Emergency card)
 - a. Make several copies.
 - b. Keep 1 copy on your bike, 1 in your wallet, 1 to share with chapter/group/ride leader, and 1 to trade with someone you regularly ride with.
3. Inspect your bike before every ride. Check tire condition, tire pressure, all lights, etc.
4. If you are a new rider, take a motorcycle safety course.

GROUP RIDING

5. Go online and review group riding etiquette. Checkout the AMA at www.americanmotorcyclist.com or the Motorcycle Safety Foundation at https://www.msf-usa.org/downloads/group_ride.pdf . This pdf includes graphics and a chart of universal hand signals.
6. Arrive at the rally location on time or early with gas tanks and stomachs full and restroom stops made so you don't delay the departure time.
7. Always ride in your comfort zone. (Others will wait for you.)
8. Remember, *do not be offended*, if the ride leader is concerned about the safety of your bike (like bad tires). He/she can and should suggest you consider making necessary repairs before riding with the group. (See #3 above.)
9. Staggered riding formation:
 - a. Allow 2 seconds between your bike and the bike directly in front of you and 1 second behind the staggered bike.
 - b. If there are more than 4 or 5 bikes, create a space for vehicles to move through the formation.
 - c. At stop lights, stop signs, etc. double up (2 bikes side by side) in order to get the maximum number of riders through quickly.
 - d. Your position in the formation is NOT “sacred”. After stops, be courteous and make room for others.
10. Single file in the “twisties” or curves, 4 or 5 seconds apart.
11. MAINTAIN SPEED WITH THE SURROUNDING TRAFFIC.
12. *IMPORTANT* Whenever you change lanes to pass another vehicle (especially semi's) accelerate and maintain your higher speed for a considerable distance, if possible, before pulling back into your lane so there is plenty of space for following bikes to get back into formation without “cutting” in front of the passed vehicle. DO NOT “cut back in” to the formation just because the bike in front of you did. Think for yourself. Be safe.
13. Let the ride leader know if you are going to deviate from the group's planned route. Remember you are always welcome to go on only part of the ride as your time

- allows. Just let the ride leader know when you will be leaving the group.
14. Let the ride leader know if you are not comfortable with the set pace.
 15. If you are tired of, or uncomfortable with, the group riding it is OK to plan your own route and timing and meet at the destination. Just let them know your intentions.
 16. If you have a question about group riding, ask the ride leader.
 17. If your bike has loud pipes, volunteer to ride at the back of the formation.
 18. If there is an incident with a bike in your group (breakdown, accident, etc.):
 - a. Pull off in a SAFE place. Remember those behind you will follow your lead.
 - b. If needed, provide immediate help.
 - i. First aid (if qualified).
 - ii. Direct traffic.
 - c. Let the ride leader take charge asap.
 - d. ALL riders not essential to managing the incident should move to a more suitable location. This will reduce the possibility of additional incidents, help with traffic flow, reduce confusion, and free up space for first responders, tow trucks, etc. You will not be abandoning your fellow rider.
 19. *Enjoy the ride and the company.*